

Regular school Board Meeting
Necedah Area School District
Necedah EC-12 – Library Media Center
February 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

1. President Dan Dutscheck called the meeting to order. Present were board members Herried, Horak, McNally, and Ard for the opening of the meeting. Also present were student body representative Skylar Hudson, Elementary School Principal Jessica McCracken, Middle and High School Principal Mark Becker, and Superintendent Tanya Kotlowski.
2. President Dan Dutscheck began the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Motion by John Ard, second by Mike Horak to approve the agenda, Motion carried.
4. Citizens Forum:
 - 1 No one came forward.
5. Motion by Matthew McNally, second by John Ard for approval of the minutes for the Regular Board meeting, Monday January 19, 2026. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Roger Herried, seconded by Matthew McNally to approve the following: Vouchers and EFTs - Checks for approval: 86180-86276, 86278-86295
- Wire Transfers/ACH - Wire Transfer/ACH 202500XXX ending 210, 236, 253-255, 257-260, 264-274, 276-283, 291-307, 322-323; ending in – Wire Transfer/ACH 252600XXX ending in 121-134, 137-139.
Motion carried.

7. New Business:

c. **2024-25 Financial Audit Review - Joe Haas, Hawkins Ash, CPA:** Joe provided the board with an update of the final 2024-25 financial audit to include an overview of the purpose for audit, fund balance and sources/uses of funds, federal and state awards, audit findings and corrective actions. No action necessary.

d. **Operational Referendum Update - Resources and Next Steps:** Tanya would like to add to this agenda so people can make public comments about this topic. I think it is good to get sentiments out there so we can approach our Q&A with precision. Tanya plans to share an update on Facebook Live, show the website, and go over. Anyone please comes with any concerns or questions you have heard within our community. March 24th, Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Reel Inn is the current time for public meetings. Help understand what, why and how for the referendum. Our State has not increased the funding to meet inflation for 17 years. We have been underfunded for the past 8 years in special education needs to over 13 million dollars and 73% of the unfunded special education costs are funded by local taxpayers. No action necessary.

a. **Middle/High School Improvement Report:** This was tabled last month. Mr. Becker provided the board with a school improvement report from 2024-25 data and work, as well as plans to address what has been prioritized for this year as a result of last year. Attendance is 94.7% for 2024-25. The graduation rate for 2025 was 96.2%. No action necessary.

b. **Charter School Planning Grant Resolution:** Proposal to the board to move forward with the application of a planning grant for a new charter school. We are not sure we will get the application completed, but with your blessing we will have our ducks in a row to move forward. This revenue will be a significant benefit to the development of project-based learning and getting students more engaged in learning. This will be applied to

the middle school project learning so they have a more hands-on approach to being engaged instead of passive learning.

Motion by Roger Herried, second by Mike Horak to approve the resolution to submit a secondary charter school planning grant application to the Wisconsin Department of Instruction requesting funds to plan for the establishment of a new charter school. Roll of yes was orally taken (5) yes was received and motion was carried. Form was filled out and signed by the president and clerk.

f. Overnight Trips: The following trips are presented with board approval.

- **State Powerlifting:** Athletes qualified for the Wisconsin High School Powerlifting Association State Championships on March 6-8, 2026, in Fox Cities Exhibition Center.

Motion by John Ard, second by Roger Herried to approve the overnight State Powerlifting field trip to the Fox Cities on March 6-8, 2026. Motion carried.

- **Senior Trip:** Senior Trip advisors want to switch to Milwaukee from Minnesota, given some of the recent events in MN. They will be providing more details of their plans but want your blessing to get the trip switched from one city to another.

Motion by Matthew McNally, second by John Ard to approve of the overnight senior class trip to Milwaukee instead of Minneapolis. Motion carried.

- **DECA** - Lake Geneva February 23-25, 2026. There are three (3) students attending the state leadership conference. Jan Baker is chaperoning the event.

Motion by Matthew McNally, second by John Ard to approve the overnight DECA field trip to Lake Geneva February 23-25, 2026. Motion carried.

- **Upward Bound - Youth Conference** at Kalahari March 19-21, 2026, 6 students, 2 chaperones/counselors from Upward Bound program. The trip is free to our students through grant funding.

Motion by John Ard, second by Roger Herried to approve the overnight Upward Bound field trip to Kalahari on March 19-21, 2026. Motion carried.

e. AGR Mid-Year Report: The school board is required to approve the review of the AGR mid-year data/report. Mrs. McCracken provided the board with an update with the data.

Motion by Matthew McNally, second by John Ard to approve the AGR Mid-Year Report 2025-26. Motion carried.

g. Resignation/Hiring Recommendations:

i. Resignations:

- Whitney Hutchins, Elementary secretary has resigned.

Motion by Mike Horak, second by Roger Herried to accept the resignation of Whitney Hutchins as the Elementary secretary.

ii. Hirings:

- None at this time

iii. Request for Leave:

1. Chastity Tait: Request is in the board packet. She has no more sick leave available.

Motion by John Ard, second by Mike Horak to approve unpaid leave for Chasidy Tait for 1-20-26. Motion carried.

2. Christina Drew: Request is in the board packet. She is traveling to a funeral. (If you want her to use PTO, sick time, you can approve it with this expectation)

Motion by John Ard, second by Roger Herried to approve the PTO or sick leave for Christina Drew for February 16-18, 2026.

Hiring: Reminder: Board is provided information about support staff hires and resignations through administrative recommendations; however, the board is required by statute to approve new teacher and administrative positions.

1. Support Staff Hiring/Resignation and Teacher Reassignment Report:.

Hires:

Resignations:.

Acceptance of Donations/Grants:

1. Be Here, Inc.: Donated \$50,000 for ASP program sustainability.

Motion by Roger Herried, second by Matthew McNally to approve the donation of \$50,000 from Be Here, Inc. for the ASP program. Motion carried.

2. Fidelity Charitable: Donated \$100 to NOAC and \$400 for the band program.

Motion by John Ard, second by Roger Herried to approve the donation from Fidelity Charitable in the amount of \$100 for NOAC and \$400 for the band program. Motion carried.

3. American Bank: Donated \$250 to Community Cares, a 501(c)(3) used for families with food insecurity.

Motion by John Ard, second by Mike Horak to approve the donation of \$250 by American Bank to the Community Cares for families experiencing food insecurity. Motion carried.

4. Robert and Sheri Smelcer: Donated \$150 to the Community Cares program for families experiencing food insecurity.

Motion by Matthew McNally, second by John Ard to approve the donation of \$150 by Robert and Sheri Smelcer to the Community Cares program for families experiencing food insecurity. Motion carried.

5. Margaret and Robert Horabik: Donated \$100 to the Necedah Powerlifting Team.

Motion by John Ard, second by Roger Herried to approve the donation of \$100 by Margaret and Robert Horabik to the Necedah Powerlifting Team. Motion carried.

6. Necedah Lions Club: Donated \$100 towards the Giving Tree.

Motion by Matthew McNally, second by John Ard to approve the donation of \$100 by Necedah Lions Club towards the Giving Tree. Motion carried.

7. Castaway Lake: Donated \$325 towards the Frigid Five for winter clothing for students and \$150 to put towards the Giving Tree.

Motion by Roger Herried, second by Mike Horak to approve the \$325 donation from Castaway Lake Association for Frigid Five and \$150 donation for the Giving Tree. Motion carried.

8. Silverius Wandler: Donated \$500 to Community Cares for families experiencing food insecurity.

Motion by Mike Horak, second by Roger Herried to approve the \$500 donation from Silverius Wandler for Community Cares for families experiencing food insecurity. Motion carried.

9. Apitz Family: Donated \$500 to Elementary Art
Motion by John Ard, second by Roger Herried to approve the \$500 donation by Apitz Family for Elementary Art. Motion carried.

Administrative reports:

- **Jessica McCracken, Grade School Principal**

From the Office of the Principal

- Charter lottery is coming in March
- PATT team and 5th grade dance committee planned 3-5 Valentine dance
- Hiring for new admin assistant underway

From the Classroom

- Kids Heart Challenge through American Heart Association wrapped up-raised \$2416! 12 students learned HO CPR! Shout out to Mrs. Boissonneault!
- Read Across America starts Feb 23-Willy Wonka themed!
- Mid-year diagnostics complete
- 3-5 preparing for Forward exam, 4 grade NAEP complete
- Battle of the Books and 3rd Grade Invention fair upcoming (conference G/T program)
ELA curriculum pilot almost complete

Upcoming Dates

- February 17: PATT meeting 3:30 pm.
- February 20-21: New Teacher Academy
- February 26: Community Visioning Session
- March 6: N-Vision enrollment deadline, applications due by 4 pm.
- March 16-20: No School, spring break
- March 25: Charter School Lottery
- March 31: Grades 4/5 spring musical 6:30 pm

Professional Development

- Literacy pilot trainings are ongoing as well as literacy work with Maggie Trendera from CESA
- Teachers will be observing in pilot classrooms
- BTAM training for several staff as part of Threat
- Assessment team

- **Mark Becker, Middle & High School Principal**

Skylar Hudson - gave report on school council.

Updates

- [N-Gage Academy Application Period Ends March 6 at 330pm](#)
- March 5 - Middle School Student Council Sponsored Lock-In
- 4 students are graduating Summa Cum Laude and will be invited to apply to be a graduation speaker this year. [Link to Form](#)
- March 10 - ACT - Civic Learning Day

- March 11 - Parent Conferences/8th and 10th grade Planning Conferences/7th grade showcase
- March 12 - Necedah Knows Conference

Cardinal CallOUTS

- Student Council - Exciting Winterfest Week
- Congratulations to Blake Cotton and Adam Bunk for receiving TUMMA's Shining Star award for excellent Tech Ed classes. Additionally, our high school received the High School Career Pathways award from TUMMA.
- Wins and Spins - Staff share positive student experiences to build on
- Staff - Efforts to build relationships with students and build connections to enhance student learning.
- Student Competitions
 - Math counts Team from N-Gage Academy and Necedah Middle School competed at WTC last Friday. Adam Elzanowski placed in the top 10 at the Math Counts Competition and is headed to state.
- HS Powerlifting has 22 competitors headed to the [state competition](#) in March 6-8 in Appleton.
- Three HS DECA students - Skylar Hudson, Eva Anderson, and Lucas Riggs are attending the DECA State Conference.
- Mrs. Moore is working to finalize our schedule and plan for 2026-27.

Professional Development

- Focus on Universal Design for Learning
 - Jake Boll - CESA Facilitator
 - Staff Leaders - Share strategies from the summer Book Study

Tanya Kotlowski

Updates:

- **Family Update:** I shared the following letter with families (TBD over weekend)
- **Community Outreach Events:** We have had a huge turnout for the art metals class that Pete is teaching. We ended up adding another session and there is still a waiting list. It is GREAT to get people in our building.
- **SRP:** We held training with staff during our PD Day to institute our new Standards Response Protocol (SRP). The following link has our new language, so we are aligned with the national standards.
- **Superintendent Events:**
 - Western Tech - School District of the Year recognition on Thursday, February 13, 2026

CLOSED SESSION:

Consideration of Adjournment to Closed session under Wis. Stat. section 19.85(1)(g) Confer with legal counsel regarding strategy of fiscal litigation and cybersecurity.

Motion by Matthew McNally, second by Roger Herried to go to a closed session. Roll of yes was orally taken (5) yes was received and motion was carried.

Motion: by Mike Horak, second by Roger Herried to adjourn from closed session. Motion carried.

No action taken in closed session.

Respectfully submitted by:
Matthew McNally, DC, DCCJP
Clerk